



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INEZ MOORE TENENBAUM
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
District Test Coordinators

FROM: Theresa G. Siskind, Director
Office of Assessment

DATE: December 13, 2006

RE: Update on Assessments

The information in this newsletter provides the most current information from the Office of Assessment about various testing programs. **Please share this information with all appropriate staff members in your district.** Copies will be sent only to the addressees above.

Thank you for your support, cooperation and dedication over the past year. We look forward to a new year of growth together. I wish you, your families, and your education families a happy holiday season.

Plans for the Future

Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT) – At this time of the New Year, it's appropriate to share plans for the future. The mathematics and English language arts (ELA) content standard revision should be completed by March 2007. Revision of the content standards will impact the assessment program. There may be changes to all of the tests in the statewide assessment program, but the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests will evidence the greatest changes. Due to the structure and format of the new standards, plans for the grades 3–8 tests include a) standard level reporting of results, b) earlier return of test results, and c) re-setting achievement levels. Although the plans for the testing program can not be finalized until the recommendations from the study of online testing are presented to the General Assembly and funds are appropriated, our plans for the future program incorporate the reporting changes listed above. These changes can not be completed in 2007–08; however, the spring 2008 test forms will assess the revised standards.

Comprehensive Assessment Program – Recommendations from the Task Force on Assessment and the resulting mandates of Act 254 of 2006 provide for a comprehensive assessment system that includes end-of-grade/course accountability measures, periodic

“benchmark” or “formative” testing, and classroom assessment. The accountability measures are to be developed or adapted by the state to align to the state content standards (please see PACT above). In addition, an adoption list for formative assessments and a formative test in reading for grades 1 and 2 are to be incorporated into the assessment program. During spring 2007, a number of activities related to formative testing will be conducted:

- A provisional adoption list for ELA and mathematics, grades 1–high school, is scheduled for Board approval in March. If support is forthcoming from the General Assembly, a final adoption list will be considered by the Board in October 2007. Assuming continued support from the General Assembly, the adoption list will be updated on a cycle that will enable districts to identify and purchase materials before the beginning of the school year.
- The formative test for reading in grades 1 and 2 is on schedule and should be in place for the 2007–08 school year. Small pilots are scheduled for the winter and spring.
- A pilot for a formative test in science is planned for February–March 2007. Pending the outcome of this pilot and support by the General Assembly, future testing of this type may become a part of the comprehensive assessment program and pilots for social studies may be conducted in future years.

General Information

Testing Workshops and Training – In the last several years, we have received requests from District Test Coordinators (DTCs) to provide pretest workshop information through Web access. In response, the Office of Assessment will deliver some training through Web-exes for the spring 2007 testing. One set of traditional pretest workshops will be held in Columbia on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 20 and 21. A third day of workshops previously announced for February 22, has been cancelled due to a conflict with the annual conference of the South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research (SCEPUR). In addition to these workshops, Web-ex test training sessions will be offered in January and February. If we receive positive reactions from the district participants, the office will gradually move to providing more training through the Web. Detailed information about both the workshops and the Web-ex sessions will be provided in January.

Rescore Policy – The rescore policy for the statewide testing programs provides a means for verification of individual student scores when there is justifiable reason for suspecting an inaccurate score or an error in combining responses from separate documents.

Rescore requests may be submitted for any of the following reasons:

- 1) correcting errors in linking test scores,
- 2) locating and scoring missing responses,
- 3) scoring a test booklet that was incorrectly submitted with a “Do Not Score” label, or

- 4) confirming accuracy when test scores are inconsistent with performance in school.

To request a rescore, the District Test Coordinator must submit a Rescore Request Form located in the *DTC Supplement* for each testing program. All information on the form must be provided, including a justification for the rescore. The district is responsible for any costs associated with the rescore request.

Rescore requests for reasons other than those listed above must be submitted directly to the Office of Assessment. The office will determine if the justification for the rescore request meets the intent of the rescore policy and is of sufficient merit to submit to the contractor.

Agreement to Maintain Test Security and Confidentiality – Test security affidavits for the statewide assessment programs have been revised for the spring 2007 administration. The new forms are attached and will be posted on the “What’s New” section of the Office of Assessment Web page at:
http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/test_area/new.html.

There are two affidavits for personnel who handle secure test materials. One is for DTCs and School Test Coordinators (STCs); and the other is for test administrators, monitors, and all other school personnel. The form for DTCs and STCs now includes a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand the TAM, and that appropriate training has been provided for all individuals involved in administering and monitoring tests. The form for TAs, monitors, and other personnel now requires the signers to acknowledge that they have read and understand selected sections of the TAM and that they have received appropriate training. Both documents include a stronger statement regarding the expectations of all personnel involved in testing. These revisions should aid in the investigation of an alleged test security violation.

PACT and HSAP Completion – Students who do not complete a PACT or HSAP test during a testing session may not return and complete the test at a later time. The only exceptions are for 1) students who have an IEP or 504 plan that specifies timing or scheduling accommodations, or 2) students who have to stop testing due to illness or injury. In these cases, students may complete only the portions of the test that they have not previously attempted. They may not go back to the portions of the test that they have already attempted.

Students who failed to receive accommodations or modifications specified in their IEP may not retake the PACT or HSAP during that administration. Please contact the SDE if this happens to a student who has no additional opportunities to take HSAP before graduation.

Precode Project for 2006-07

Contact: Joe Saunders 803-737-4275 jsaunders@ed.sc.gov or District Technology Services 803-734-7000 DTSQUEUE@ed.sc.gov

SASI precode data will be used to preprint student demographic information on test booklets or answer documents for many of the testing programs in spring 2007. Again this year, the precode data submission will occur as a component of the quarterly data collection. The data collection name is QDC 2/Precode. See "Important Precode Dates." DTCs should register for a user account or update their existing accounts. Access to the data submission feedback reports for QDC 2/Precode and the precode update require an account registration at www.ed.sc.gov. To create an account, click on "Login" at the top of the page, then click on the "Create an Account" button and follow the instructions. The precode manual and the PowerPoint presentations from the precode workshop may be found at www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/Precode. DTCs are now able to access feedback reports from QDC 1, provided that all information in the user account has been updated. For help with SASI-related questions or general QDC 2/Precode questions, contact the Office of Technology's District Technology Services at 803-734-7000 or DTSQUEUE@ed.sc.gov.

A few changes have been made to the SASI precode fields. It is important that you make sure the data are accurately input into SASI.

- Blanks in demographic fields will result in a blank in the data file.
- The State ID (formerly known as the SUNS ID number) is the unique, ten-digit state ID number that is automatically assigned when a student enrolls or transfers into a school. It is located in the State ID field.
- Several fields have been added to collect data necessary for ELDA: US Sch Entry, Primlang, ESOL, and ELLI.
- SC-Alt has replaced PACT-Alt and HSAP-Alt; however, you will still use the PACT-Alt and HSAP-Alt fields in the drop down menu of the AA field.

Important Precode Dates

- QDC 2/Precode (QDC 2/P) - January 2–16, 2007 - This is the print phase; information from this upload will be used to preprint PACT and HSAP test booklets and answer documents and ELDA precode labels. It also determines the number of materials sent to each school and district for PACT and HSAP. Materials quantities for ELDA were determined by QDC1 counts.
- Update Phase - March 12–16, 2007 - During this time period, you can add any new students who have moved into your district or make changes to demographic information for your students.

Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT)

Contact: Susan Creighton 803-734-8535 screight@ed.sc.gov

2007 Test Booklet and Answer Documents – Updated test booklet and answer document covers for spring 2007 will be posted on the Web under the “What’s New” link on the Assessment page and under Resources on the PACT page. The following paragraphs highlight the major changes to the codes appearing on the covers.

Beginning with the 2007 administration, test administrators must identify the accommodations used by **English as a Second Language (ESL) students**. The accommodations codes on the student’s test booklet or answer document covers include: bilingual dictionary, directions translated, scheduling, small group administration, and timing.

For spring 2007, there are also some changes in the accommodations and modifications codes for **students with IEPs or 504 Plans**. For students using “response options,” test administrators must indicate “Typed/Separate Paper” or “Other.” The contractor will use this information to ensure that any student responses typed or written on separate sheets of paper are located and scored. Test administrators will also be required to identify the specific types of oral or signed administrations. Options on the test booklet and answer document covers include “audio CD-ROM” and “oral script” for oral administrations and “ASL videotape” and “signed script” for signed administrations.

On the test booklet or answer document covers for all **eighth grade ELA, mathematics, and science tests**, a field has been added for students to indicate whether or not they are currently enrolled in specific courses with end-of-course tests. For example, an English 1 field (with the question “In the 8th grade, are you taking English 1?”) appears on the ELA test booklet. This information will be used to help determine the number of students who are participating in both PACT and end-of-course tests in the same year.

2007 Field Test Booklets and Answer Documents – Copies of the 2007 field test covers will be posted to the Web under the “What’s New” link on the Assessment page at http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/test_area/new.html.

In response to requests from English language arts teachers, constructed-response rubrics will be included on the inside front cover of the ELA field test booklets (for forms B, C, and D at all grade levels). These rubrics are the generic rubrics that are currently found on the Web at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/pact/rubrics.html>.

SASI and Student State IDs – Please remind test administrators that both the SASI and the State IDs for students will be required this year. Fields for these variables are found on page two of the operational test booklet or answer document and should be coded if applicable.

Online Enrollment – Data Recognition Corporation's (DRC's) Enrollment Verification System opened on December 4. The window for entering data and ordering materials extends through January 12, 2007. This system allows districts and/or schools to enter

- 1) form A enrollment information for non-precoded districts;
- 2) teacher names and material counts for administration scripts (form A, Braille, or form H) and ASL videotapes;
- 3) student names and materials counts for audio CD-ROMS (grades 5-8);
- 4) fall assignment information; and
- 5) the number of class sheets needed for each school.

More detailed information was provided to DTCs in a memorandum from the contractor dated November 27, 2006.

Science and Social Studies – Beginning with the spring 2007 administration, students in grades 4 and 7 will take both the science and social studies tests (census testing). Students in grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 will take either the science or social studies test (sample testing). The state will randomly assign students in the sample grades to take science or social studies based on precode files. Since districts provide orders for customized materials through these same files, districts should order materials as if students in the sample grades will be taking both science and social studies. DRC will provide the appropriate customized materials for students based on the samples.

Students who are in the sample grades and who take the wrong test will **NOT** be counted as tested for accountability purposes.

Students in **grades 4 and 7** will take science on Tuesday, May 15 and social studies on Wednesday, May 16.

Each student in **grades 5, 6, and 8** will take the science **OR** social studies test on Tuesday, May 15. The administration directions for science and social students in the *Test Administration Manual (TAM)* are generic so that test administrators can administer both science and social studies tests to students in the same classroom at the same time.

For the **grade 3** science and social studies tests, test administrators read aloud the test questions (using a *Secure Administration Manual*). Therefore, students in grade 3 **cannot** take science and social studies at the same time in the same classroom.

DTCs will be asked to participate in a **Web-based survey** from SurveyMonkey.com to provide preferences for testing dates for grade 3 students and field testing. The survey will be available in December. DTCs will have until mid-January to respond. The test date options that will appear on the survey are provided as an attachment to this memorandum.

Students who enroll after the March Update Phase must also be tested in science and/or social studies. STCs will use answer documents and test booklets from their overage for these students. If the students are in grades 4 and 7, they must take both tests. If the students are in grades 3, 5, 6, or 8, they will take either the science or the social studies test. The STC will use an electronic Excel spreadsheet provided by DRC to list new students in the sample grades as they enroll in the school. STCs will place these students on the list in the order of enrollment and use the list to assign the students to take a science or social studies test. Details will be provided to DTCs during the February workshops.

As in past years, schools will receive test booklets and answer documents sorted into shrink-wrapped packages as specified in precode. For 2007, however, science answer documents will be shrink-wrapped with the corresponding test booklets, as will social studies answer documents and test booklets. For all grades (census and sample), the science and social studies test materials will be shrink-wrapped in separate packages (i.e., science and social studies materials will not be intermixed in the same package). Answer documents and test booklets within each science or social studies package will be sorted alternately with the preprinted answer document on top followed by the corresponding numbered test booklet. The test booklets are not preprinted. The alternate sorting is to make it easier for test administrators to provide each student with an answer document and test booklet for the same subject.

To correspond with the science and social studies packaging, answer documents and test booklets will be listed alternately on school **security checklists** with one set of “sign in” and “sign out” lines per answer document/test booklet. A sample of a security checklist for social studies is attached.

Online Field Testing – For spring 2007, we are piloting an online version of the **social studies** field tests in all grades. Participation in the pilot field testing is voluntary. Schools may elect to test all students selected for social studies field tests online, all with paper field tests, or some students online and others with paper tests. District and school personnel will be invited to participate in Web-based training sessions offered during the next several months. DRC will provide more specific information and the dates and times of the training sessions later this month. A tutorial will also be available for student practice during February or March.

High School Assessment Program (HSAP)

Contact: Nancy Whitlock 803-734-0664 ncwhitlo@ed.sc.gov

Need for Accurate BEDS Codes – The use of valid BEDS codes on school headers is critical to accurate reporting of HSAP results. Please ensure that there are accurate BEDS codes for all schools and adult education centers in your district. In past administrations, confusion in reporting has resulted from missing or inaccurate BEDS codes on school headers for students attending schools or adult education centers that serve multiple districts.

Transfer Students – As your schools enter precode data, remember that students who have transferred into your district should be coded for HSAP materials if they meet the HSAP spring participation guidelines. Participation guidelines are posted on the Web at the link listed below.

http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/programs/hsap/documents/HSAP_Partiguilines.pdf.

ESL Students – Beginning with the 2007 administration, test administrators must code the test booklets to identify the accommodations used by ESL students. The accommodations will include: bilingual dictionary, directions translated, scheduling, small group administration, and timing.

Fall 2006 Score Report Delivery

Districts receive district data files on CD	December 14
Districts receive all paper reports	December 14

Spring 2007 Testing Schedule

April 24 (Tuesday)	ELA test (Session 1)
April 25 (Wednesday)	ELA test (Session 2)
April 26 (Thursday)	Mathematics
April 27 – May 4	Make-up testing

South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt)

Contact: Suzanne Swaffield 803-734-8274 sswaffie@ed.sc.gov or Douglas Alexander 803-734-3923 dgalexan@ed.sc.gov

Test Administrator Training – Training for SC-Alt test administrators will be held in regional sessions during the month of January. The SC-Alt is scored by the test administrator as it is administered. To ensure scoring fidelity and standardization across the state, training is required for all teachers who will administer the SC-Alt assessment. Skilled test administrators ensure appropriately administered and scored assessments which support the validity of the results for AYP and report card ratings.

Information on the training locations and registration procedures was sent to the DTC-Alt in each school district in mid-November. Multiple training days and locations are being offered in an effort to accommodate district and school schedules. Mileage will be reimbursed for test administrators (only) who must travel 50 miles or more to attend the training.

Training Schedule

January 22, 23	Greenville
January 24, 25, 26	Columbia
January 29, 30	Charleston
January 31	Florence

Each workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m., and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided to all participants. **Teachers should attend only one day of training.**

Testing Window – Teachers will administer the operational forms of the ELA, mathematics, and science alternate assessments during the testing window, March 5 through April 20. Teachers will also administer a census social studies field test for elementary and middle school students during the spring 2007 testing window. There is no social studies alternate assessment at the high school level.

End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP)

Contact: Lane Peeler 803-734-8282 lpeeler@ed.sc.gov

Testing Contractor – The Rapid Scoring and Reporting team of Pearson Educational Measurement (PEM) is the contractor for shipping and receiving test materials and for scoring and reporting the fall 2006/winter 2007, spring 2007, and summer 2007 test administrations.

Online Testing – Four regional online testing workshops were conducted by PEM in October 2006. Individual training to initiate online testing continues to be available from PEM.

Fall 2006/Winter 2007 Testing – The fall 2006/winter 2007 state EOCEP testing window is December 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007. Subjects to be tested are Algebra 1/Mathematics for the Technologies 2, English 1, Physical Science, and US History and the Constitution. All tests will count as 20 percent of the final grade in the course, except US History and the Constitution.

For districts testing in December, SchoolHouse opened for additional materials orders on November 15, and the first shipment of test materials has been shipped. The shipment of

test materials for districts testing in January 2007 is due in the districts by December 8. SchoolHouse closes for additional orders on January 26, 2007.

Score reports and data files are due in the districts by March 2, 2007. There will be no paper reports or data files for US History and the Constitution. Class and district rosters will be posted to Pearson's eMeasurement Web site 36 hours after they receive the test information for all subjects except US History and the Constitution. Those postings will be delayed since this is the initial implementation testing, and results will be analyzed at the SDE before releasing.

Spring 2007 Testing – The SWEET query for collecting class-level enrollment information for testing in May/June 2007 will be open January 2–16, 2007. The spring state EOCEP testing window is May 1–June 7, 2007.

Summer 2007 Testing – Dates for summer EOCEP testing will be set after districts set their summer school schedules.

Fall 2007/Winter 2008 Testing – The fall 2007/winter 2008 test dates for the EOCEP have not been set due to the initiation of the uniform start date. The Office of Assessment will survey districts in February before setting test dates.

Alternative Scheduling for Testing EOCEP Subjects – Directions for setting district testing windows are provided in the *DTC Supplement*. In general, all testing should occur within the district's testing window.

Some flexibility in scheduling EOCEP is needed for students who complete courses outside district testing windows. These may include students from

- Adult Education,
- Alternative schools,
- Department of Juvenile Justice,
- Early or middle colleges, and
- Virtual schools.

Districts are responsible for testing these students but may apply to test online at times other than during district and state windows. To apply, districts must complete and submit the Alternative Scheduling form at:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/programs/endofcourse/End-of-CourseExaminationProgramEOCEP.html>. Alternative scheduling will be approved only for students using online testing.

South Carolina Readiness Assessment Profile Interactive (SCRAPI)

Contact: Jim Casteel 803-734-8293 jcasteel@ed.sc.gov

Rating Windows – The Fall rating window closed November 30. The Winter rating period is now open and will remain open through February 28. **The Winter rating is required.**

Many teachers have not yet created their accounts for this year. Now that the Winter window is open there will be many new users signing onto the system and they will have questions about the changes for this year.

There are some changes to the SCRA checklist for the 2006-07 school year. The Reading and the Writing sections of the checklist have been expanded to include indicators specifically tied to the state standards. These new indicators are actually more specific skill components of existing indicators (and were previously listed as standards under each indicator). They are indented under the original indicator and marked with an asterisk in SCRAPI. A Word version of the checklists is on the Readiness Web page for reference at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/Programs/SCRA/index.html> and may be printed for teachers to use for record-keeping if desired.

SCRAPI will now include a fourth rating column for “Not Taught.” This is only an option for the first three rating periods, not at Year End. For an area that may not have been taught when the Winter rating is done, marking “Not Taught” will allow the rating to show as 100% complete. This will allow easier monitoring of completion when using the teacher, school, or district summary pages in SCRAPI. Visually, there are some changes within SCRAPI to make it easier to see and use.

Performance Tasks for Gifted and Talented (Project STAR)

Contact: Amelia Brailsford 803-734-8019 abrailsf@ed.sc.gov

Test Dates – Administration of the 2007 South Carolina Performance Tasks is scheduled for March 5 through March 20, with return of materials to Carolinian Consultancy by March 21. The deadline for submission of student data to Carolinian Consultancy is January 25, 2007. Incomplete student data cannot be accepted, and districts submitting data after the deadline will be charged a handling fee of \$10.00 per pupil. Districts must transmit this data through the use of the G.I.F.T. computer program. To obtain assistance with use of the program or to receive information about early submission of student data, contact David Escue at gifthelp@c2five.com/.

Calendar for future Performance Tasks Administrations

2008 March 3-14
2009 March 9-24
2010 March 8–23
2011 March 7–22

English Language Development Assessment (ELDA)

Contact: Chris Webster 803-734-5721 cwebster@ed.sc.gov

Testing Window – The spring 2007 ELDA administration window is February 26 through April 20. Within this window, districts must select a six week testing window to complete all ELDA administrations. Because spring break occurs during ELDA testing, and to ensure districts have a full six weeks, it is not necessary for the district schedule to be six consecutive weeks.

Testing Contractor – The Department amended the PACT contract with DRC to include spring 2007 testing for ELDA (i.e., operations, scoring, and reporting). By now, districts should have received from DRC an overview of the process for ordering customized materials online. The online enrollment system is set up for one contact person (i.e., DTC) per district. This contact person will receive all correspondence and test materials for both PACT and ELDA. Therefore, DTCs for ELDA and PACT must work together to ensure that orders for customized materials are entered during the enrollment period, December 4–January 12. The contact person designated in the online system must also notify the ELDA DTC immediately when ELDA materials arrive in the district.

Changes for Spring 2007 – There are a couple of notable changes for the spring 2007 administration. There will be one *TAM* for ELDA K-2 and 3-12 that will cover, in detail, all procedures and guidelines for testing. In the past, districts have been given the choice of media type for the listening and speaking prompts. Beginning with the spring 2007 administration, there will no longer be an option for audiocassettes. CD's will be the only media type available for the prompts.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Contact: Therese Carr 803-734-3747 tcarr@ed.sc.gov

Many thanks to schools and districts selected for NAEP 2007 for completing their online NAEP school data collection forms. DTCs provided invaluable technical support to selected schools in their district in navigating the online submission system for the first time.

NAEP field staff will begin contacting schools in December to schedule pre-assessment visits. Pre-assessment visits will take place in January. Schools will receive pre-assessment packets in early January. Please ensure that the appropriate school staff (i.e., ESOL teachers/IEP team members) complete the questionnaires for English language learner students and for students with disabilities prior to the pre-assessment visit in order to ensure that these students receive proper accommodations on the NAEP. Guidelines for including these students on NAEP are available at:

[<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/programs/naep/InclusionofSWDandELLonNAEP.html>.](http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/programs/naep/InclusionofSWDandELLonNAEP.html)

Please remind schools selected for NAEP 2007 that they are required by federal law to send a parental notification letter home with all students in the selected grade. A copy of the generic letter must be faxed to Therese Gleason Carr in the Office of Assessment at 803-734-8886 by January 17, 2007. DTCs received a paper copy of the required letter for schools to place on school letterhead in the NAEP packets sent in September 2006. An electronic version of the letter is also available for downloading on the Web at <https://www.mynaep.com>.

The NAEP 2007 testing window is from January 22 through March 2, 2007. All schools have been informed of their specific testing dates. The following assessments will be administered:

- National and State assessments in mathematics and reading in grades four and eight (national and state results), and in writing in grades eight (national and state results) and twelve (national results only).
- Pilot tests in mathematics in grades four and eight, and in reading in grades four, eight, and twelve.

Please continue to consult the new SDE NAEP Web pages for updated NAEP resources: <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/programs/naep/index3.html>.

Instructional Television Series (ITV)

Contact: Therese Carr 803-734-3747 tcarr@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Assessment is airing a new instructional television series in the 2006–07 year. This series is designed for teachers and administrators and provides an overview of various aspects of the statewide testing programs. The series may be videotaped for use by school and district personnel.

The *Assessment Informational Overview* series will be televised on channel 304. ITV will broadcast the four spring programs in a block feed (all four back to back on each date) from 12:00 to 4:01 P.M. on the following dates: January 8 and 16, February 5 and 12, March 5 and 12 and April 2 and 16. Below are the programs slated for spring 2007.

Ensuring Test Security: Review of Regulations and Case Studies

Test security violations occur when test security law, State Board regulations, or test administration procedures are not followed as outlined in the *Test Administration Manual* and the *DTC Supplement*. This presentation is a review of test security laws and regulations through a discussion of a variety of scenarios that represent test security violations encountered during the last several years.

Exploring Science Achievement on PACT and NAEP: A Comparison of South Carolina and NAEP Standards, Results, and Assessment Items

Office of Assessment science assessment specialists and NAEP staff will analyze the alignment of South Carolina and NAEP standards/frameworks, results on PACT and NAEP, and test items from both assessments. Distractor analyses of the PACT and NAEP items will provide insight into the interpretation and instruction of South Carolina Science Standards and the progress of students toward achieving these learning objectives.

Planning for Assessment: School Personnel Speak out on Accommodated Administrations

The session will provide viewers with an inside look into the planning that school personnel undertake in preparation for statewide assessments. A special education consultant from the Office of Assessment and school personnel from around the state will discuss the many elements involved in planning for accommodated administrations. School personnel will share their planning strategies and provide helpful lessons learned from the field. This information will be useful for all school personnel; principals, school testing coordinators, and teachers. School personnel will be able to incorporate similar processes in order to plan and organize their assessment administrations.

Encouraging Motivation on NAEP 2007: The Twelfth-Grade Challenge and Beyond

The general trend in national NAEP is improvement at the 4th and 8th grade, but the performance of twelfth-graders has remained flat. Lower motivation and engagement among 12th graders threatens the validity of NAEP results for high school students. A working group of high school principals was convened to discuss 12th grade NAEP participation rates, student motivation, and results. The group made recommendations for a *Best Practices Guide* that contains practical resources on motivating high school students to participate in the NAEP. This session will be a presentation of these and other resources for encouraging student motivation on NAEP and streamlining the administration of the assessment not only in selected high schools but also elementary and middle schools.

Achieving Accurate Results for Diverse Learners (AARDL)

Contact: Therese Carr 803-734-3747 tcarr@ed.sc.gov

Analyses of the AARDL field test items included on the PACT 2006 field test are currently underway. Work has begun on creating a training manual on the development of assessment items that increase access for English language learners and students with disabilities without altering the construct being measured. Once completed, the AARDL

analyses and training manual will be disseminated in South Carolina and beyond through presentations and reports.

Teacher Quality Research (TQR) Grant : *Investigating the Efficacy of a Professional Development Program in Classroom Assessment for Middle School Reading and Mathematics*

Contact: Dawn Mazzie 803-734-4430 dmazzie@ed.sc.gov

The Teacher Quality Research Grant provides professional development in classroom assessment for middle school teachers. Analysis of Year 1 student achievement data (PACT) is currently in progress. The focus of these analyses is to determine if there are differences between the students of teachers participating in the professional development and students of those teachers not participating.

The professional development for Year 2 has begun in schools that have agreed to participate. The focus for Year 2 will be to determine if there are differences in student achievement between the students of teachers who are trained in assessment by a coach and the students of teachers trained in assessment by a facilitator. This year, the grant is supporting 216 grade 7 teachers and their students.

Each participating middle school administered the School Quality Benchmark Assessments in reading and mathematics between November 13 and 17, 2006. Teachers who administered the assessments will participate in professional development for training in interpreting the test results January 16–19, 2007 for reading and January 23–25, 2007 for mathematics. The professional development is offered by the Office of Assessment staff and will be sponsored by the Office of School Quality. In each professional development session, teachers will contrast the answers given by high scoring and low scoring students to better understand the differences in how students demonstrate their understanding of the standards and to identify overall strengths and weaknesses of their students. In addition, instructional strategies will be offered to assist teachers in targeting student weaknesses.

Adding Value to Accommodations Decision-Making (AVAD) Grant

Contact: Therese Carr 803-734-3747 tcarr@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Assessment has received a third federal Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG). The total amount of the 2006 grant award exceeds 1.3 million dollars, and the project period extends from October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2008. A one-year no-cost extension has been requested. Project partners include the LEP and ASES SCASS groups, as well as consultants from the University of Oregon, Michigan State University, and the University of Nebraska.

The AVAD grant will build upon the efforts of the 2003 and 2004 EAG projects, in which online decision-making tools were developed to assist educators in selecting valid testing

accommodations for individual English language learners and students with disabilities on large-scale assessments. The final deliverable of the AVAD grant will be to publish these tools on the SDE Web site in order to facilitate access to all interested parties. Two project directors are needed to coordinate grant activities; please consult the South Carolina state jobs Web site at <http://www.state.sc.us/jobs/> for these job postings in the near future.

Office of Assessment Web Site

Information about testing programs (including this memorandum) managed by the Office of Assessment is updated continually and is located on the Office of Assessment Web site at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/index.html>.

Attachments (3): Test security affidavits
 PACT testing date options
 Sample Security Checklist